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1977 ANNUAL AUTO THEFT REPORT

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
REGISTRY OF MOTOR VEHICLES

MICHAEL S. DUKAKIS
GOVERNOR

ALAN A. MACKEY
REGISTRAR

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Registry of Motor Vehicles
100 Nashua Street, Boston 02114

TITLE DIVISION
150 CAUSEWAY ST.
BOSTON, MA 02114

1977 OFFICIAL ANNUAL AUTO THEFT REPORT

MARCH 1, 1978

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THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
STATE HOUSE • BOSTON 02133

MICHAEL S DUKAKIS
GOVERNOR

March 30, 1978

Auto thefts across the Commonwealth have dropped by almost 25% in the past two years. Even more encouraging is the news from the ten cities that were hardest hit in 1975 -- their car theft rate was cut by almost 30%.

Auto theft rates have a direct impact on the premiums that Massachusetts' hard-pressed motorists must pay for their insurance every year. We all have a stake in seeing that this drop in thefts continues.

Prevention is the key to the auto theft problem. Local police departments and the news media have increased their emphasis on prevention and Massachusetts drivers have responded admirably.

Whenever you park your car, please take a simple precaution -- lock it and pocket the key.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Michael S. Dukakis

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MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS OF THE OFFICIAL 1977 AUTO THEFT REPORT

1. Auto thefts in 1977 totaled 65,994, a decrease of 5,543 from the 1976 total of thefts which was 71,537, according to reports filed with the Registry of Motor Vehicles by the State's Chiefs of Police.

2. In the 1977 annual auto theft report, the following was determined:

--- 143 cities and towns reported decreases in auto thefts in 1977. In 1976, this figure was 178 cities and towns;

--- 117 cities and towns reported increases in auto thefts in 1977. In 1976, this figure was 73 cities and towns;

--- 34 cities and towns reported unchanged figures in auto thefts in 1977. In 1976, this figure was 48;

--- 57 cities and towns either failed or were unable to make reports for 1977 (16.2% of all cities and towns). In 1976, this figure was 52 cities and towns which did not report.

"TOP TEN IN AUTO THEFT"

PERCENTAGE COMPARISONS

CITY	1975 THEFTS	PERCENTAGE OF ALL STATE THEFTS
Boston	28,219	32.1%
Worcester	7,472	8.5%
Cambridge	3,755	4.3%
Springfield	2,525	2.9%
Lynn	2,251	2.6%
Somerville	2,224	2.5%
Fall River	1,837	2.1%
Lowell	1,833	2.1%
Revere	1,760	2.0%
Brockton	1,751	1.9%
		60.8%

CITY	1976 THEFTS	PERCENTAGE OF ALL STATE THEFTS
Boston	26,441	37.0%
Worcester	4,215	5.9%
Cambridge	2,923	4.1%
Springfield	2,287	3.2%
Somerville	1,984	2.8%
Lowell	1,540	2.2%
Brockton	1,478	2.2%
Lynn	1,404	2.0%
Fall River	1,368	1.9%
Revere	1,298	1.8%
		63.3%

CITY	1977 THEFTS	PERCENTAGE OF ALL STATE THEFTS
Boston	21,427	32.5%
Worcester	3,982	6.0%
Cambridge	2,572	3.9%
Springfield	1,901	2.9%
Brockton	1,582	2.4%
Somerville	1,486	2.2%
Lowell	1,411	2.1%
Lynn	1,379	2.1%
Taunton	1,318	2.0%
Fall River	1,269	1.9%
		58.0%

BARNSTABLE COUNTY:

CITY/TOWN	1974 THEFTS	1975 THEFTS	1976 THEFTS	1977 THEFTS
Barnstable	282	240	213	202
Bourne	39	37	31	42
Brewster	12	12	11	10
Chatham	21	8	9	15
Dennis	76	35	30	31
Eastham	12	6	1	21
Falmouth	192	125	122	92
Harwich	27	25	19	26
Mashpee	17	17	28	33
Orleans	18	10	6	14
Provincetown	N/R	16	25	31
Sandwich	3	7	16	19
Truro	5	2	1	5
Wellfleet	8	4	12	12
Yarmouth	104	77	101	66
	816	621	625	619

* N/R = No Response

BERKSHIRE COUNTY:

CITY/TOWN	1974 THEFTS	1975 THEFTS	1976 THEFTS	1977 THEFTS
Adams	31	43	24	20
Alford	1	1	0	0
Becket	0	N/R	0	0
Cheshire	0	0	4	N/R
Clarksburg	12	N/R	N/R	N/R
Dalton	4	10	14	0
Egremont	N/R	N/R	0	N/R
Florida	0	0	N/R	1
Great Barrington	N/R	N/R	23	14
Hancock	N/R	0	N/R	N/R
Hinsdale	1	2	2	0
Lanesborough	0	3	0	8
Lee	N/R	N/R	N/R	19
Lenox	24	16	10	12
Monterey	0	N/R	0	0
Mount Washington	0	0	0	0
New Ashford	0	0	N/R	N/R
New Marlborough	1	1	0	1
North Adams	N/R	82	70	75
Otis	2	N/R	1	1
Peru	3	0	N/R	0
Pittsfield	176	204	252	163
Richmond	0	5	9	3
Sandisfield	1	0	0	1
Savoy	0	2	0	N/R
Sheffield	2	N/R	N/R	0

BERKSHIRE COUNTY - continued

CITY/TOWN	1974 THEFTS	1975 THEFTS	1976 THEFTS	1977 THEFTS
Stockbridge	14	15	11	4
Tyringham	0	0	0	0
Washington	0	0	0	0
West Stockbridge	5	5	8	3
Williamstown	1	7	4	11
Windsor	N/R	N/R	N/R	0
	278	396	432	336

BRISTOL COUNTY

CITY/TOWN	1974 THEFTS	1975 THEFTS	1976 THEFTS	THEFTS
Acushnet	13	27	16	24
Attleboro	335	325	279	398
Berkley	9	N/R	N/R	6
Dartmouth	268	257	223	215
Dighton	12	19	25	26
Easton	69	57	65	73
Fairhaven	47	54	60	54
Fall River	1582	1837	1368	1269
Freetown	4	11	9	9
Mansfield	122	N/R	48	63
New Bedford	1243	995	941	662
No. Attleboro	164	127	91	148
Norton	N/R	88	71	29
Raynham	65	114	101	128
Rehoboth	21	10	6	12
Seekonk	104	180	138	156
Somerset	33	87	53	35
Swansea	4	62	132	139
Taunton	826	734	550	1318
Westport	33	56	21	50
	4954	5040	4197	4814

DUKES COUNTY

CITY/TOWN	1974 THEFTS	1975 THEFTS	1976 THEFTS	1977 THEFTS
Chilmark	3	4	N/R	0
Edgartown	N/R	11	N/R	N/R
Gay Head	N/R	N/R	0	0
Gosnold	0	0	0	0
Oak Bluffs	26	17	13	8
Tisbury	5	17	15	36
West Tisbury	4	N/R	N/R	2
	38	49	28	46

ESSEX COUNTY

CITY/TOWN	1974 THEFTS	1975 THEFTS	1976 THEFTS	1977 THEFTS
Amesbury	50	51	42	48
Andover	141	140	94	75
Beverly	272	246	328	258
Boxford	1	4	5	4
Danvers	378	504	382	360
Essex	15	16	17	7
Georgetown	15	50	29	24
Gloucester	306	370	303	204
Groveland	9	12	9	7
Hamilton	6	8	8	3
Haverhill	451	647	427	491
Ipswich	40	43	46	28
Lawrence	1362	1503	1116	969
Lynn	1698	2251	1404	1379
Lynnfield	42	59	47	31
Manchester	24	24	13	14
Marblehead	46	51	34	22
Merrimac	11	11	5	16
Methuen	421	520	425	370
Middleton	15	17	28	40
Nahant	11	6	18	13
Newbury	8	20	7	8
Newburyport	138	162	141	91
North Andover	106	105	54	82

ESSEX COUNTY - continued

CITY/TOWN	1974 THEFTS	1975 THEFTS	1976 THEFTS	1977 THEFTS
Peabody	419	459	451	367
Rockport	4	28	13	14
Rowley	15	19	19	9
Salem	411	547	392	377
Salisbury	84	92	144	127
Saugus	551	709	1236	381
Swampscott	48	57	79	69
Topsfield	5	4	8	7
Wenham	5	13	8	10
West Newbury	2	2	N/R	5
	7110	8750	7332	5910

FRANKLIN COUNTY

CITY/TOWN	1974 THEFTS	1975 THEFTS	1976 THEFTS	1977 THEFTS
Ashfield	0	0	3	0
Bernardston	2	0	1	1
Buckland	0	0	0	0
Charlemont	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R
Colrain	1	2	N/R	N/R
Conway	1	2	3	0
Deerfield	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R
Erving	3	1	2	4
Gill	0	0	0	0
Greenfield	51	54	73	73
Hawley	0	0	0	0
Heath	3	N/R	0	0
Leverett	1	1	1	0
Leyden	0	0	0	0
Monroe	N/R	1	0	0
Montague	16	22	14	24
New Salem	0	0	N/R	N/R
Northfield	6	N/R	0	2
Orange	2	21	11	10
Rowe	N/R	0	0	0
Shelburne	0	0	0	1
Shutesbury	1	2	1	0
Sunderland	N/R	12	15	7

FRANKLIN COUNTY - continued

CITY/TOWN	1974 THEFTS	1975 THEFTS	1976 THEFTS	1977 THEFTS
Warwick	1	2	2	5
Wendell	N/R	N/R	1	0
Whately	0	0	0	0
	88	120	127	127

HAMPDEN COUNTY

CITY/TOWN	1974 THEFTS	1975 THEFTS	1976 THEFTS	1977 THEFTS
Agawam	217	260	118	70
Blandford	0	0	0	0
Brimfield	N/R	0	0	1
Chester	0	0	0	1
Chicopee	320	356	273	277
East Longmeadow	25	33	18	28
Granville	1	N/R	1	2
Hampden	6	6	3	16
Holland	N/R	N/R	4	1
Holyoke	569	574	378	541
Longmeadow	5	14	14	11
Ludlow	49	49	53	42
Monson	30	7	15	28
Montgomery	N/R	0	0	0
Palmer	7	8	14	15
Russell	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R
Southwick	19	20	8	14
Springfield	2447	2525	2287	1901
Tolland	0	0	0	0
Wales	0	1	N/R	N/R
West Springfield	310	404	344	294
Westfield	134	146	106	88
Wilbraham	32	30	21	19
	4171	4433	3657	3349

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY

CITY/TOWN	1974 THEFTS	1975 THEFTS	1976 THEFTS	1977 THEFTS
Amherst	96	94	75	94
Belchertown	8	7	13	19
Chesterfield	0	3	0	4
Cummington	0	0	0	0
Easthampton	13	27	16	12
Goshen	N/R	1	1	0
Granby	23	10	6	6
Hadley	36	50	34	35
Hatfield	0	0	0	2
Huntington	0	N/R	0	1
Middlefield	1	0	0	N/R
Northampton	95	142	162	101
Pelham	2	2	1	2
Plainfield	0	2	0	0
South Hadley	41	27	17	31
Southampton	7	22	9	3
Ware	18	41	10	10
Westhampton	0	0	1	3
Williamsburg	0	2	3	2
Worthington	1	0	1	1
	341	430	349	326

MIDDLESEX COUNTY

CITY/TOWN	1974 THEFTS	1975 THEFTS	1976 THEFTS	1977 THEFTS
Acton	65	56	37	53
Arlington	243	200	240	250
Ashby	0	N/R	0	4
Ashland	67	63	39	20
Ayer	13	11	14	35
Bedford	16	54	50	65
Belmont	130	105	49	38
Billerica	362	350	439	454
Boxborough	9	7	10	10
Burlington	578	716	480	486
Cambridge	5203	3755	2923	2572
Carlisle	2	2	3	1
Chelmsford	172	167	125	159
Concord	48	53	38	37
Dracut	171	195	214	161
Dunstable	0	N/R	N/R	N/R
Everett	478	489	393	359
Framingham	656	613	464	402
Groton	16	6	8	4
Holliston	3	24	19	27
Hopkinton	16	20	10	15
Hudson	37	N/R	25	54
Lexington	127	124	91	54
Lincoln	23	N/R	91	9

MIDDLESEX COUNTY - continued

CITY/TOWN	1974 THEFTS	1975 THEFTS	1976 THEFTS	1977 THEFTS
Littleton	26	9	22	11
Lowell	1853	1833	1540	1411
Malden	794	834	566	531
Marlborough	216	N/R	254	195
Maynard	11	21	31	15
Medford	742	855	613	791
Melrose	212	176	144	101
Natick	179	268	186	176
Newton	646	667	426	405
North Reading	79	135	109	61
Pepperell	10	12	18	14
Reading	57	48	45	70
Sherborn	1	3	3	3
Shirley	17	N/R.	N/R	34
Somerville	2511	2224	1984	1486
Stoneham	122	185	127	110
Stow	4.	6	4	5
Sudbury	20	24	21	23
Tewksbury	327	382	273	172
Townsend	3	8	4	9
Tyngsborough	9	55	27	42
Wakefield	96	128	116	128

MIDDLESEX COUNTY - continued

CITY/TOWN	1974 THEFTS	1975 THEFTS	1976 THEFTS	1977 THEFTS
Waltham	313	491	391	428
Watertown	242	254	229	222
Wayland	28	15	23	20
Westford	32	60	46	40
Weston	9	13	14	10
Wilmington	120	106	99	126
Winchester	107	107	86	65
Woburn	373	536	491	343
	17,599	16,470	13,648	12,316

NANTUCKET COUNTY

CITY/TOWN	1974 THEFTS	1975 THEFTS	1976 THEFTS	1977 THEFTS
Nantucket	73	17	60	40

NORFOLK COUNTY

CITY/TOWN	1974 THEFTS	1975 THEFTS	1976 THEFTS	1977 THEFTS
Avon	31	51	42	43
Bellingham	N/R	N/R	N/R	42
Braintree	839	1185	1032	1082
Brookline	974	1271	1143	1091
Canton	108	181	122	110
Cohasset	10	21	14	23
Dedham	707	747	549	526
Dover	N/R	5	N/R	11
Foxborough	N/R	125	105	104
Franklin	50	101	79	143
Holbrook	N/R	64	20	N/R
Medfield	11	13	19	28
Medway	16	18	10	24
Millis	8	18	16	5
Milton	98	168	209	145
Needham	72	97	68	72
Norfolk	8	5	10	7
Norwood	391	232	261	324
Plainville	22	30	N/R	13
Quincy	1084	1059	1230	1021
Randolph	256	282	311	231
Sharon	46	59	22	30
Stoughton	166	N/R	190	153
Walpole	168	145	145	165

NORFOLK COUNTY - continued

CITY/TOWN	1974 THEFTS	1975 THEFTS	1976 THEFTS	1977 THEFTS
Wellesley	89	86	89	71
Westwood	87	82	68	96
Weymouth	380	N/R	313	361
Wrentham	28	29	30	38
	5649	6074	6097	5,959

PLYMOUTH COUNTY

CITY/TOWN	1974 THEFTS	1975 THEFTS	1976 THEFTS	1977 THEFTS
Abington	33	43	41	33
Bridgewater	43	52	93	73
Brockton	1266	1751	1478	1582
Carver	N/R	N/R	23	20
Duxbury	30	19	21	30
East Bridgewater	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R
Halifax	N/R	N/R	17	16
Hanover	234	349	357	187
Hanson	16	N/R	19	14
Hingham	111	144	88	94
Hull	N/R	36	40	39
Kingston	13	21	21	41
Lakeville	1	15	37	23
Marion	6	6	6	3
Marshfield	248	138	160	189
Mattapoisett	8	4		13
Middleborough	66	176	67	84
Norwell	29	26	35	24
Pembroke	46	30	39	53
Plymouth	182	283	271	176
Plympton	N/R	2	11	4
Rochester	0	0	6	8
Rockland	248	231	151	149

PLYMOUTH COUNTY - continued

CITY/TOWN	1974 THEFTS	1975 THEFTS	[illegible] THEFTS	1977 THEFTS
Scituate	60	93	[illegible]	85
Wareham	22	109	[illegible]	118
West Bridgewater	22	44	39	47
Whitman	31	43	[illegible]	56
	2715	3615	3212	[illegible]

SUFFOLK COUNTY

CITY/TOWN	1974 THEFTS	1975 THEFTS	1976 THEFTS	1977 THEFTS
Boston	22,371	28,219	26,441	21,427
Chelsea	716	940	735	499
Revere	1,288	1,760	1,298	1012
Winthrop	139	119	134	139
	24,514	31,038	28,608	23,077

WORCESTER COUNTY

CITY/TOWN	1974 THEFTS	1975 THEFTS	1976 THEFTS	1977 THEFTS
Ashburnham	N/R	10	7	5
Athol	39	26	24	27
Auburn	299	308	165	210
Barre	N/R	N/R	6	4
Berlin	4	14	5	2
Blackstone	24	27	28	20
Bolton	4	1	5	1
Boylston	5	22	10	11
Brookfield	1	5	1	N/R
Charlton	12	45	52	30
Clinton	83	114	N/R	57
Douglas	1	2	2	3
Dudley	28	24	17	13
East Brookfield	2	2	2	3
Fitchburg	440	443	319	214
Gardner	155	131	107	123
Grafton	38	51	29	35
Hardwick	N/R	5	0	0
Harvard	2	2	4	5
Holden	N/R	15	29	N/R
Hopedale	13	6	1	1
Hubbardston	1	N/R	4	1
Lancaster	N/R	N/R	N/R	12

WORCESTER COUNTY - continued

CITY/TOWN	1974 THEFTS	1975 THEFTS	1976 THEFTS	1977 THEFTS
Leicester	53	44	35	40
Leominster	296	372	295	220
Lunenburg	30	53	33	40
Mendon	12	10	2	3
Milford	141	352	164	122
Millbury	50	78	31	28
Millville	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R
New Braintree	0	1	3	0
North Brookfield	5	12	10	2
Northborough	64	97	50	41
Northbridge	35	31	23	27
Oakham	0	4	0	4
Oxford	41	14	34	37
Paxton	4	7	7	4
Petersham	N/R	N/R	N/R	0
Phillipston	25	N/R	3	4
Princeton	2	5	7	2
Royalston	2	N/A	N/R	N/R
Rutland	9	12	16	7
Shrewsbury	319	367	192	166
Southborough	42	44	19	28
Southbridge	33	47	43	49
Spencer	43	88	27	38

WORCESTER COUNTY - continued

CITY/TOWN	1974 THEFTS	1975 THEFTS	1976 THEFTS	1977 THEFTS
Sterling	15	19	22	11
Sturbridge	14	10	9	14
Sutton	19	34	30	47
Templeton	N/R	N/R	12	10
Upton	4	14	4	7
Uxbridge	25	26	19	25
Warren	9	12	6	7
Webster	88	74	39	75
West Boylston	10	38	26	15
Westborough	132	137	105	97
West Brookfield	0	2	0	3
Westminster	18	18	15	23
Winchendon	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R
Worcester	7037	7472	4215	3089
	9,728	10,737	6,303	7,324

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